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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA

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DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE AREA

The Ishi Resource Area of the Redding District of the Bureau of Land Management includes some 77,000 acres of National Resource Lands scattered throughout Tehama, Butte and Glenn Counties. They contain a variety of resource values, some of which are already being realized and others yet to be developed.

The Resource Area is bordered on the east by the Sierra Nevadas and on the west by the Coast Range, with the Sacramento Valley in between. the vegetation is extremely varied and includes the Sacramento Valley grasslands, woodland grass, chaparral and mixed conifer forest. Precipitation varies from 18 inches in the Sacramento Valley to 75 inches in the Sierras. Elevation varies from about 50 feet above sea level in the Sacramento Valley to 6,000 feet on Bald Mountain in the Sierras.

According to the 1970 census, about 153,000 people live within the boundaries of the Ishi Resource Area. One area of significant interest is the growth of Paradise in Butte County. This community expanded by 52% from 1960 to 1970. This population growth has had a definite effect on public lands in the area by increasing the number of recreational visits.

Until recently, National Resource Lands in the Resource Area have been used primarily for timber production, livestock grazing, watershed and wildlife habitat. This was in tune with then current trends. These uses will probably be maintained at current levels, while recreational use will increase and may even become the primary use in some areas.

For ease in identifying management objectives, the Resource Area has been divided into seven planning sectors:

1. SACRAMENTO RIVER SECTOR. This sector begins at the Tehama County line on the north, takes in the Tuscan Buttes, and extends down to Orland in a narrow belt.

2. BATTLE CREEK SECTOR. This sector is located approximately 40 miles east ofRed Bluff and takes into consideration those public lands located along the South Fork of Battle Creek.

3. ISHI CAVE SECTOR. This sector is located approximately six miles east of Los Molinos and includes public lands in the Deer Creek and Mill Creek drainages.

4. CHICO SECTOR. This sector includes the National Resource Lands located north and east of Chico in the Cohasset and Paradise areas.

5. OROVILLE RESERVOIR SECTOR. This sector includes National Resource Lands around Lake Oroville.

6. COTTONWOOD CREEK SECTOR. This sector includes all National Resource Lands located in western Tehama County.

7. STONY GORGE SECTOR. This sector includes all National Resource Lands located in Glenn County.

WHY LAND USE PLANNING?

One has to look back in history aways for the answer to that question. The National Resource Lands administered by BLM are in effect residual lands. They are what remains of our original Federal estate after a century of homesteading and various grants under the public land laws and reservations for national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other special uses. In the past, they were administered primarily on a custodial basis because there was always some question as to their future tenure. However, events of recent years have erased much of the uncertainty over land tenure and the National Resource Lands are now coming under intensive, long-range multiple use management.

The transition from custodial administration to intensive management began in 1964 when Congress passed the Classification and Multiple Use Act. That law directed BLM to inventory all of the lands under its administration and, after consultation with user groups, other government agencies, and the general public, classify them either for retention in Federal ownership under multiple use management or for transfer out of Federal ownership. Most of the National Resource Lands in the Ishi Resource Area were classified in the late 1960's for retention under multiple use management. With that decision made, it became necessary to make a more detailed resource inventory of the lands and develop Management Framework Plans for their future administration. Such plans guide future land use decisions and form the basis for more intensive land use planning, including program and budget requests for consideration by Congress.

Some people wonder why the boundaries of a Resource Area take in more than the National Resource Lands. The reason is that the National Resource Lands cannot be studied or managed in a vacuum. They are related to the lands around them physically, economically, and socially. For instance, timber, forage and other materials sold from the National Resource Lands affect the local economy. Wildfire knows no boundaries and can sweep across public and private lands alike. Game animals, which belong to the state, find food and shelter for all or part of a year on the National Resource Lands. For reasons such as these, the Resource Area boundaries are extended to take in a reasonable geographic, economic and social area of which the National Resource Lands are an integral part. Certain types of data, such as deer migration routes or fire hazards are gathered throughout the Resource Area. However, Management Framework Plan decisions apply ONLY to the National Resource Lands administed by BLM.

THE BLM PLANNING SYSTEM

In 1964, BLM started developing a planning process to better determine which land use, or combination of land uses, could take place within given geographic areas. After a period of design and testing, the BLM Planning System was adopted and implementation started in July 1969. This System

is presently being used to develop and maintain land use plans which consider all of the various resource uses for all National Resource Lands.

The BLM Planning System is similar to traditional planning approaches. It includes such usual components as goals, objectives, inventory of physical resources, socio-economic data, and public participation. However, it differs in several ways. It has techniques requiring the description and comparison of "trade-offs" or what is gained or lost when decisions are made to accept various alternatives. Another major departure from traditional planning philosophy is the concept and requirements of assessing the single-use potentials of each physical resource.

In brief, the system works as follows. The first step in the procedure is to delineate the BLM-administered land into geographic areas called Planning Units. The Ishi Resource Area was divided into two Planning Units named the Feather River and Yolla Bolly. These units serve as the basis for collection and analysis of basic resource data called Unit Resource Analyses (URA). The URA includes a detailed description of the existing environment of the Planning Unit, a physical inventory of individual resources (lands, minerals, livestock forage, forestry, recreation, wildlife, watershed), and analysis of the resource production opportunities without multiple-use consideration.

After URA's are completed, a Management Framework Plan (MFP) is prepared for a planning area. The MFP is a conceptual plan which indicates how the National Resource Lands in a given geographic area should be managed. An MFP may cover one or more Planning Units. Basically, it is the result of a process designed to identify and reconcile major land and resource use conflicts. The MFP provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource. It is prepared using an interdisciplinary approach at the field level of BLM employees. Coordination with a variety of groups and interests is obtained in an organized public participation process.

The MFP for a specific planning area describes the various resource uses that are permissible after consideration of BLM policy guidance, the facts about the resources and uses, views of the public, and other inputs to the decision-making process. In addition, the MFP describes the constraints on planning necessary to ensure compatibility of uses, protection and enhancement of the environment, and other management objectives.

The MFP process requires three steps. Step 1 is the development of a set of recommendations showing the optimum use and/or development for each resource, constrained only by the resource capability, the limiting effects of policy, and social and economic data as provided by other components of the Planning System. Step 1 also includes environmental enhancement and protection recommendations. Step 2 covers conflict resolutions and development of alternatives to solve or minimize the conflicts. During this step alternative multiple-use recommendations are developed for the planning area. To help with conflict resolution, and the development of alternatives to solve or minimize the conflicts and to identify data weakness, BLM presents its recommendations to the public for their input. A series of public meetings were held throughout the Ishi Resource Area from 1971 - 1973. BLM discussed its planning findings and recommendations with County Planning Commissions, other Federal, State and local agencies, and with the public at meetings in Red Bluff, Chico and Willows. The 3rd step in the MFP

process involves a complete review and analysis of the foregoing in order to make management decisions which will guide future BLM programs.

Following approval of the MFP by BLM, and subject to available funds and manpower, program activity plans are prepared for each resource activity, to lay out in detail how each activity will achieve the objectives and meet the constraints shown in the MFP. And again, the public is urged to participate in the activity planning.

This is the point where we are today in the Ishi Resource Area. The two MFP's which cover the areas of Feather River and Yolla Bolly contain many management objectives. It will not be possible to follow up on all of them in the immediate future. Therefore, we have to think in terms of priorities. Which objectives should be tackled first? We are asking you to help us answer that question.

Following is a summary of the management objectives already established for the Ishi Resource Area.

WATERSHED

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: Watershed management is concerned with the soil mantle -- its maintenance, enhancement and the prevention of erosion. All wildland resource values except mineral extraction are dependent upon the soil mantle. The soil mantle must be managed or other activities will not function properly and environmental quality will go down. Therefore, watershed protection and enhancement will always be a major consideration.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: Watershed condition is measured mostly by erosion potential. Using that as a yardstick, lands within the Sacramento River and Ishi Cave sectors are in fairly good condition. However, lands within all other planning sectors have at least some areas with potential problems. Commercial timber areas have steep slopes and erosion hazards often change from moderate to severe or critical with some harvest methods. The soils around Lake Oroville have been identified as some of the most erosive soils in the State. Lands within the Cottonwood Creek and Stony Gorge sectors have been identified as extremely valuable watershed, 47% of which have critical to severe erosion hazard ratings.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Do not allow heavy equipment operation, vegetative removal, or other uses that disturb the soil mantle on soils having an erosion hazard of critical or higher.
2. Do not allow "cat" logging on slopes exceeding 40%.
3. Do not allow vegetative removal on serpentine soils.
4. Prohibit new road construction in soils having a severe erosion hazard and keep all road construction down to a minimum.

5. Do not allow cross-country or off-the-road use of vehicles within the Cottonwood Creek and Stony Gorge sectors. (All areas remain open to vehicle use on existing roads and trails.)
6. Attempt to obtain a cooperative agreement with Glenn and Tehama Counties wherein they will notify BLM of all proposed road construction well in advance of survey and design and BLM would reciprocate in a like manner.
7. Develop a comprehensive watershed improvement study of Lake Oroville by resource specialists to determine methods of reducing sediment loads and protecting the watershed.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: The objective of the BLM forestry program is to manage the lands designated as intensive forest management areas for permanent forest production. The timber thereon shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principles of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: The Ishi Resource Area has 7,000 acres of forest land identified as intensive management areas. These areas are primarily found in the Chico and Cottonwood sectors and currently have an assigned allowable cut of two million board feet of timber per year. Predominant timber species are Ponderosa Pine, White Fir and Douglas Fir.

There are 3,300 acres of forest lands designated as "protection areas" since they lack potential for intensive management. Such lands are characterized by low potential productivity, highly erodible soils, steep rocky areas with shallow soils and areas otherwise difficult to reforest. The majority of the protection areas have been designated in the Oroville sector.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue timber harvesting in the intensive management areas at the maximum sustainable rate.
2. Selective silvicultural practices should be used exclusively.
3. Planning for harvest operations should include all parcels in a vicinity and coordination with other governmental agencies.
4. Roads developed for forest management and not needed for other resource programs should be closed and "put to bed" following timber operations.
5. The priorities for forest development are as follows:
   (a) Increase the stocking of commercial timber species to acceptable levels.
   (b) Thin overstory stands of commercial conifer species to increase growth rates.
6. Reinventory the timber within the Resource Area taking into consideration people-buffer zones, filter strips and protection areas.

WILDLIFE

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for wildlife habitat management on National Resource Land and providing access for wildlife utilization and management. The California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the Wildlife itself and BLM works closely with the Department.

RESOURCE CONDITIONS WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: There are approximately 4,500 hunter days per year expended in pursuing game animals, principally deer, on National Resource Lands within the Ishi Resource Area. However, deer do not normally frequent National Resource Lands until late in fall, generally after hunting season.

The Sacramento River with its outstanding fishery lies within the Area. However, both National Resource Lands and public access are lacking along its shoreline. Some 30 miles of cold water fisheries exist on BLM lands in addition to approximately 20 miles of BLM administered reservoir shoreline fishing.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with the University of California on a survey of the natural biota of the Yolla Bolly Planning Unit of the Resource Area.
2. Withdraw from mineral entry 2,000 acres of watershed valuable to fisheries.
3. Develop an interagency (USFS, CDFG, BLM) cold water fisheries habitat management plan for Butte Creek, South Fork of Battle Creek and South Fork of Cottonwood Creek and tributaries.
4. Evaluate methods of rehabilitiation for deer winter range and restore these ranges if feasible.
5. Promptly complete an inventory of birds of prey.

RECREATION

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: Recreation management is concerned with the preservation and enhancement of significant natural, historic and cultural resources and providing for their public use and development. It is also concerned with an adequate variety and supply of recreation uses, balanced with public needs and resource potentials and the maintenance of environmental quality.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: The National Resource Lands located within the Ishi Resource Area offer the public many opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, swimming, hiking, off-road vehicle use, rock hunting and exploring historical sites. However, scattered ownership and a general lack of access have not permitted use of this resource to its full potential. It is estimated that 57,500 visitor days use occur on National Resource Lands now and the potential use is much greater.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Obtain protective withdrawals on National Resource Lands in the following locations:
   a. Invertebrate Fossil Area
   b. South Fork Battle Creek
   c. Site of Ishi's Cave
   d. Inventoried Recreation Sites
   e. West Branch Feather River
   f. Public lands along Sacramento River
2. Continue to allow motorcycle use on the flood plain (40 acres) along Stony Creek near Orland.
3. Designate and manage as "Back Country" the Cold Fork and Red Bank areas.
4. Develop management plans for the Cold Fork and Red Bank "Back Country" areas.
5. Construct trails at specific identified locations to improve public access.
6. Construct roads at specific identified locations to improve public access.
7. Develop recreation facilities and management plans for the following sites:
   a. South Fork of Battle Creek
   b. Forks of Butte
   c. West Branch of the Feather River
   d. Sacramento River
8. Develop a total land use plan for the Ishi Cave area.
9. Allow off-road vehicle use on existing roads and trails.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: Livestock grazing is authorized on National Resource Lands in the Redding District by grazing leases issued for periods up to, but not exceeding, ten years at a time. These leases are offered to help meet the needs of the livestock industry and individual users.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: There are 27 ranchers who have grazing leases on a total of 18,417 acres of National Resource Lands within the Ishi Resource Area. The 1,491 animal months of feed furnished from these lands supplies less than 1% of the feed requirements of the livestock industry within the Resource Area. Although most of the leases are small, they are important to some local operatores. Grazing leases are in effect in all map sectors.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS:

1. Continue existing grazing leases on a short-term basis pending completion of integrated activity plans.
2. Identify through integrated activity plans lands best suited to livestock grazing under Allotment Management Plans.
3. Prepare an Allotment Management Plan for National Resource Lands in the Tuscan Buttes area.

MINERALS

DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES: This program includes adjudication of mineral applications, economic analysis, mineral appraisal, disposition of minerals by lease, license and permit and coordination of minerals exploration and mining activities with other land uses.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE RESOURCE AREA: Several productive gas fields exist within the Ishi Resource Area. Present production from wells located on government-owned land or mineral estate is small, but the potential for increased production exists.

Probably the most active mineral resource value in the near future will be "rockhounding" and recreational "gold panning."

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue gas production from lands within existing gas fields where mineral rights are in Federal ownership.
2. Extend leases for exploration of oil and gas leases on Federal lands.
3. Permit recreational rockhounding activities as long as environmental degradation does not occur.
4. Discourage commercial development of lapidary materials, fossils and ornamental materials for home, garden and hobby use.

LANDS

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the lands program are to support public land management programs through land use planning, classification and realty services; to meet public needs for land and information services; to preserve public values and prevent trespass; to obtain fair market value from public land sales; and to preserve and enhance public values through land exchanges.

RESOURCE CONDITION WITHIN THE ISHI RESOURCE AREA: The National Resource Lands within the Ishi Resource Area are found in scattered and isolated tracts, commonly referred to as a "checkerboard" pattern of ownership. A total of 55,000 acres of this land has been classified for retention and multiple use management and 22,000 has been withdrawn for special purposes such as watershed projects.

BLM considers its land base as a valuable resource in developing proposals and achieving goals identified in the planning. Some of these public lands are available for exchange to increase public opportunities in other areas.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Fully analyze scattered parcels of BLM land to identify existing and long-range values. Identify tracts which could be used for exchange base to increase public values.
2. Have Ishi's cave designated as a National Historic Site because of its significant historical value.

3. Investigate the possibilities for switching managerial responsibilities between BLM and the Plumas National Forest along the West Branch of the Feather River area.
4. Do not sell any tract of National Resource Land until exchange possibilities have been thoroughly investigated and it is determined that direct sale would result in greater public benefit than exchange.
5. Obtain protective withdrawals on National Resource Lands in the following areas:
   a. South Fork Battle Creek
   b. Site of Ishi's Cave
   c. West Branch of Feather River
   d. Forks of Butte
   e. Public lands along the Sacramento River
   f. McNab Cypress Natural Area

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES: Support activities are necessary to implement resource management decisions and/or to protect resource and public values.

MAJOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Cadastral (land boundary) surveys are needed for:
   a. Intensive Forest Management Areas
   b. The Sacramento River
   c. South Fork of Battle Creek
   d. Tuscan Buttes
   e. Lower Butte Creek
   f. West Branch Feather River
   g. Back Country areas
   h. Ecological Areas
   i. Public sale parcels near Paskenta
2. Continue contracting fire protection for National Resource Lands with the California Division of Forestry.
3. Inventory public hazards on National Resource Lands.
4. Develop a sign program for the National Resource Lands.
5. Develop a Youth Conservation Corps program within the Ishi Resource Area with emphasis on environmental education and conservation projects on National Resource Lands.

MAP INTERPRETATION

The 77,000 acres of land in the Ishi Resource Area consists of many parcels of land. Each of these parcels is unique in some respects. To present the management decisions in a multiple use plan, the attached map was prepared with supporting information grids. The map is used by locating any given parcel of land which may be of interest to you. Each parcel is identified with a reference number and a sector name (i.e. Cottonwood Creek Sec-

tor, Reference Number 7). By looking at the grid under this parcel identification, you can read off all of the management decisions which have been made pertaining to this parcel. The grid can also aid your study of the plan by quickly locating all of the parcels in the Ishi Resource Area which are under similar management programs. Ex. All parcels of land subject to intensive forestry management practices can be identified directly from the grid.

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National Resource Lands

COTTONWOOD CREEK SECTOR

STONEY GORGE SECTOR

RED BLUFF

CORNING

TEHAMA COUNTY

REDDING

DISTRICT

DISTRICT

MT DIABLO MERIDIAN

YOLLA BOLLY PLANNING UNIT

ISHI RESOURCE AREA
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS
Major Management Decisions that affect National Resource Lands on this map are summarized below. Locations affected are marked by an X in the columns to the right of the decisions.

	Cottonwood Creek Sector Reference Numbers							Stony Gorge Sector Reference Numbers		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3
Lands											
Dispose by public sale											
Available for exchange											
Lands acquired by BLM to increase public values											
Retain for Multiple Use Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Minerals											
Open to Mining Claim Location	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forestry											
Intensive management areas											
Livestock											
Grazing leases in effect	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grazing waters											
Watershed											
Restricted use											
Wildlife											
Cold water fisheries restoration and enhancement											
Potential deer range restoration											
Recreation											
Protective withdrawal											
"Back Country" areas											
Develop access trail											
Develop access roads											
Develop recreation facilities											
OHV use on existing roads and trails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Support											
Public land survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fire protection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SACRAMENTO RIVER SECTOR

BATTLE CREEK SECTOR

ISHI CAVE SECTOR

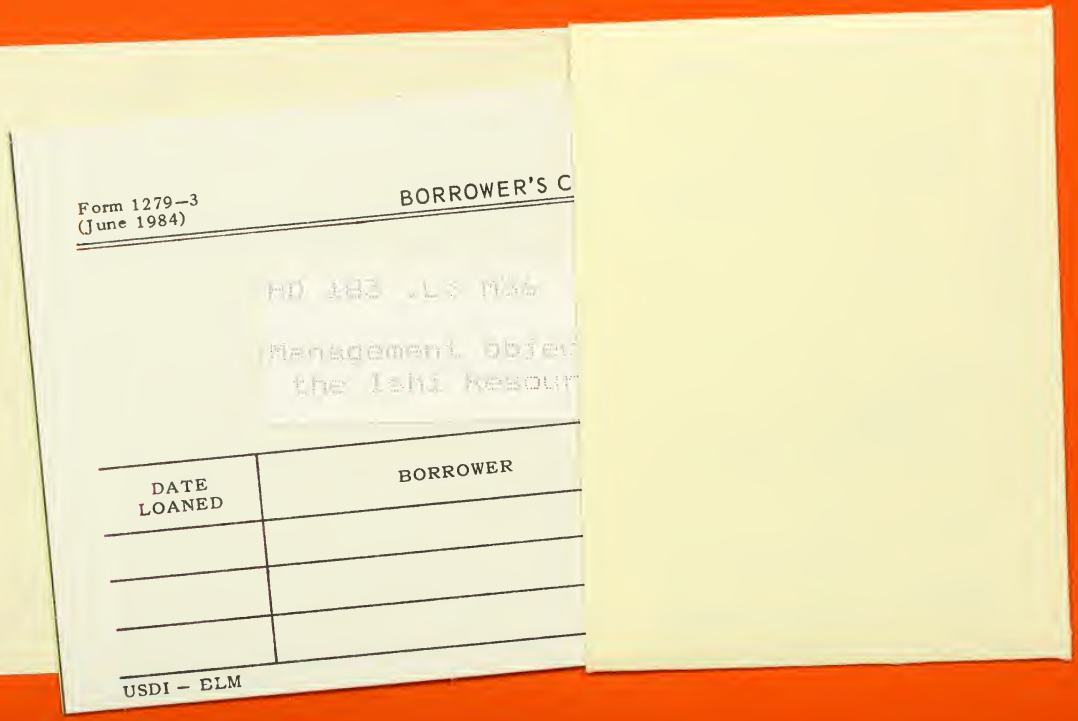
CHICO SECTOR

OROVILLE RESERVOIR SECTOR

BLM RESOURCE AREA MANAGEMENT DECISIONS Major management decisions that affect National Resource Lands on this map are summarized below. Locations affected are marked by an X in the column to the right of the decisions.	Sacramento River Sector Reference #						Battle Creek Sector Reference #					Ishi Cave Sector Reference #		Chico Sector Reference #									Oroville Reservoir Sector Reference #				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4
Lands																											
Available for exchange			X					X																			
Lands desired by BLM to increase public values	X	X						X					X														
Exchange dangerous with USFS																											
Identify as a National Historic Site													X														
Retain for Multiple Use Management	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Minerals																											
Continue sand production	X	X	X		X																						
Mineral leases in effect	X	X	X					X		X																	
Open to mining claim location	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X					X												
Forestry																											
Intensive management areas																									X		X
Protection areas (Watershed & other purposes)										X	X						X	X									
Livestock																											
Grazing leases in effect	X		X	X					X	X																	
Tuscan Buttes Grazing System	X																										
Watershed																											
Watershed improvement study needed																											X
Restricted use									X	X	X						X										X
Wildlife																											
Protective withdrawal									X																		
Cold water fisheries restoration and enhancement									X																		
Potential deer range restoration	X																										
Bird of prey inventory		X																									X
Recreation																											
Protective withdrawal			X						X								X										X
Intensive motorcycle use				X																							
Develop access trail									X																		
Develop access roads	X								X																		
Develop recreation facilities	X								X																		
Ishi Cave Land Use Plan													X														
Only use on existing roads and trails	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Support																											
Public hazard areas	X	X							X																		
Public land survey	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Fire protection	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

FEATHER RIVER PLANNING UNIT

National Resource Lands



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